

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 25-38 are in the application, with Claims 6 and 13-24 having been canceled in this paper. The pending claims stand rejected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 7 and 25-31 are rejected as being anticipated by Girard et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,760,640.

Before turning to specific claim amendments that have been made to render the pending claims allowable, applicant will first note a difference between the circuit shown in FIG. 1 of the present application and the circuit shown in FIG. 3 of the Girard reference. In the circuit of the present application, the output 142 of the operational amplifier 136 is directly coupled to the common drain node 112 while the input 180 of the other op amp 146 is directly coupled to a different common drain node 106. By contrast, in the circuit of FIG. 3 of the reference, both the output of op amp OP1 and the inverting input of op amp OP2 are directly coupled to the same common drain node 15.

To reflect this difference, claim 1 has been amended to now recite that the output of the first operational amplifier is directly coupled to the second common drain node and that the first input of the second operational amplifier is directly coupled to the first common drain node. As so amended, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the Girard reference, since in FIG. 3 of Girard, the output of op amp OP1 is directly coupled to the same common drain node 15 as the inverting input of op amp OP2.

To similar effect, claim 25 has been amended to recite that it has one input directly coupled to the output terminal and the other input directly coupled to the reference circuit. By contrast, while the non-inverting input of OP2 in the reference is directly coupled to the reference circuit, the inverting input of OP2 is not directly coupled to the output terminal (node 14).

Claims 2-5, 7 and 26-31 are submitted as patentable on the same basis as their parent claims. Furthermore, claim 7 now recites that the output of the second operational amplifier is

directly coupled to a gate terminal of the first current source. By contrast, the output of OP2 in FIG. 3 of the reference is not directly coupled to the gate terminal of T2.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 8-12 and 32-38 are rejected as being unpatentable over Momtaz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,950,115 in view of Girard et al. '640.

It is believed that the rejections under § 103 do not raise any issues not already addressed in connection with the claims rejected under § 102, and by corresponding amendments to claims 8 and 32. Accordingly, claims 8-12 and 32-38 are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claims 1 and 25.

* * * * *

The title of the application has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

October 1, 2004
Date



Nathaniel Levin
Registration No. 34,860
Buckley, Maschoff & Talwalkar LLC
Five Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 972-3460